

Global Undergraduate Exchange Program in Eurasia and Central Asia (Global UGRAD) 2011 – 2012



Global Undergraduate Exchange Program (Global UGRAD)



- Funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the US Department of State
- Administered by IREX
- To promote democracy, economic prosperity, international cooperation, and mutual understanding
- One-year academic program for outstanding undergraduate students

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the U.S. Department of State fosters mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries around the world. Over 250 current and former heads of state and government are alumni of ECA programs.





IREX

WWW.IREX.ORG

IREX is an international nonprofit organization providing leadership and innovative programs to improve the quality of **education**, strengthen **independent media**, and foster pluralistic **civil society development**. Founded in 1968, IREX has an annual portfolio of \$60 million and a staff of over 500 professionals worldwide.



Global UGRAD Academic Study

- One year of full-time, non-degree study at over 40 different colleges, universities, and community colleges all across the United States.



Eligible Fields of Study *

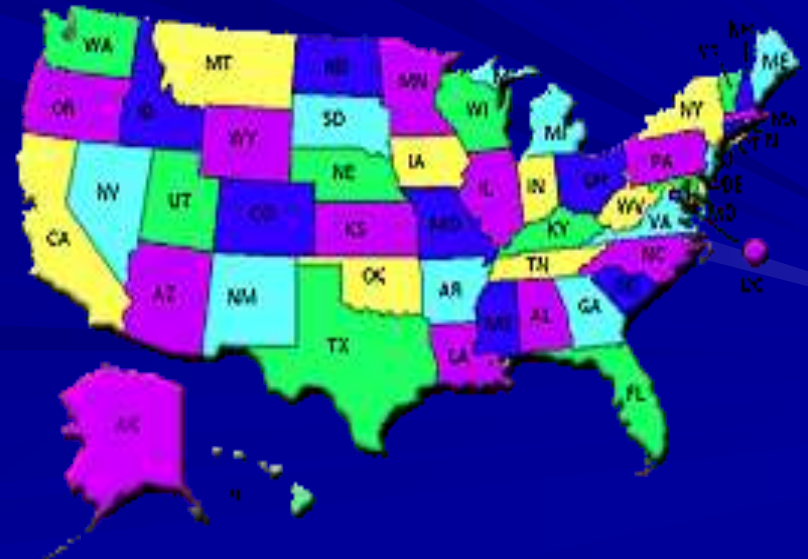
- Accounting
- Agriculture
- Anthropology
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Criminal Justice
- Economics
- Education
- Engineering
- Environmental Management
- Geology
- Hospitality Management
- International Relations
- Journalism
- Law
- Mass Communications
- Physics
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Urban Planning
- U.S. Studies

*Other fields will be considered



Host Institution Placements

- Accredited colleges and universities in the US
 - First-year students will attend two-year community colleges and live in campus housing (dormitories) or with American host families
 - All other students (second year, third year, etc.) will attend four year universities and colleges and will live in dormitories
- Only those institutions approved by IREX and ECA may host fellows
- Fellows may NOT choose or change placements



Professional Training

Global UGRAD Fellows complete a part-time internship during their Spring semester.

- Fellows intern 10 hrs/week for no more than 40 hrs/month
- Internships allow fellows to gain professional experience and skills
- Experience gained through internships can directly apply to future careers in home countries



A fellow researching alternative energy sources

Community Service

Global UGRAD fellows complete community service during first semester

- Experience the principles of community service and social responsibility in the United States
- Fellows complete 20 hours of community service in their host community
- Past fellows have volunteered at such places as the Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and at local secondary schools



A fellow volunteering at a local day care

Cultural Exchange

Global UGRAD fellows conduct country presentations to enlighten and educate Americans on their countries.

- Fellows conduct two country presentations: one on-campus and one off-campus
- Fellows often use pictures, music, food, and dance to share their country's culture



A fellow presenting her country's flag and national clothing

Cultural Immersion

Global UGRAD fellows immerse themselves in American culture by participating in the Passport to America program

- Fellows explore and record different aspects of American culture such as arts, holidays, sports, and music.
- Fellows receive stamps in their “Passports”
- Fellows discuss their activities online and reflect with other fellows.



A fellow experiences American football

Visa & Financial Support

- J-1 visa support;
- Round-trip travel from fellow's home city to host institution in the United States;
- Accidence and sickness coverage;
- Tuition and mandatory university fees;
- Room and board (housing and meals);
- Small incidentals allowance;
- Limited allowance for books;
- A wide variety of alumni networking and training opportunities.

IREX Support in the US

Each fellow will be assigned an IREX staff member in Washington, DC who will be your primary contact in the US.



- Assist you in your adjustment to American culture, life, and studies.
- Guide you in choosing your courses, community service projects, and internships.
- Collaborate with your host institution advisors, faculty, and staff on all details of your studies and time in America.
- Coordinate all financial and travel issues directly related to your time as a Global UGRAD fellow.

Host Community Support

All fellows will have host advisors and campus coordinators who will assist you in your daily life in your host communities.

- Help make your host community a home away from home
- Offer daily support and advice
- Identify courses for you to take
- Coordinate and/or create Passport to America activities
- Identify community service, internship, and country presentation opportunities



Who can be a Global UGRAD Fellow

- **A citizen, national, or permanent resident with a passport from:**

Armenia	Azerbaijan	Belarus	Georgia
Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Moldova	Russia
Tajikistan	Turkmenistan	Ukraine	Uzbekistan
- **Meets all Eligibility Requirements***
- **Submits an application and two additional copies by the deadline**
- **Is eligible for a US J-1 visa**

*For complete details about eligibility requirements please refer to the participant instructions.

Program Regulations

- Immediately upon program completion, fellows must return to their home countries for two years
- Fellows may not continue their studies in the US
- Fellows may not work while in the US (with the exception of the internship)



Selection Process

- Merit-based open process
- All applications first reviewed for technical eligibility
- Eligible applications read, evaluated & ranked by panel of academic specialists
- Highest rankings = Semi-finalists



What Makes a Great Global UGRAD Applicant?



- Academic Excellence
- Cross-Cultural Interest
- Demonstrated Leadership Potential
- Proficiency in English (both written and spoken)
- Flexibility and Suitability as an Exchange Student
- Commitment to Returning to Home Country after Completion of Program
- Preference to applicants living outside capital cities
- Preference to students that represent indigenous, disadvantages, and underrepresented communities with no prior experience outside their countries

Semi-finalists

- Semi-finalists notified in early 2011
- Semi-finalists interviewed in English in home country by a bi-national committee of U.S. specialists, program alumni, and U.S. Embassy representatives
- Must take Official TOEFL exam in home country in February or March 2011 (testing and travel paid for by IREX)



Finalists



- Finalists and alternates notified by phone in April 2011
- Finalists attend a pre-departure orientation in their home country in June or July 2011
- Fellowships begins in August 2011



Global UGRAD Applications

- Visit local IREX office for paper applications
- Apply online or download the application at <http://www.irex.org/application/global-undergraduate-exchange-program-eurasia-and-central-asia-global-ugrad-fellowship-a>



Tips for Writing Personal Statements: The Do's

www.accepted.com

- Create a unifying theme or thesis and use throughout essay
- Do a self-assessment before writing—know what you want to write about
- Use concrete examples
- Distinguish yourself
- Begin with attention-grabbing intro (quote, anecdote, etc.)
- End with restatement of theme or thesis
- Revise at least 3 times
- Have someone else edit or proofread it
- Write succinctly and to the point

Tips for Writing Personal Statements: The Don'ts

www.accepted.com

- Don't stray from the thesis
- Don't write an autobiography or resume in prose
- Don't be a clown (but gentle humor is ok)
- Don't try too hard to impress the reader
- Don't use clichés or generic statements
- Don't make excuses
- Don't make things up
- Don't begin with "My name is..." or "I was born in..."
- Don't be afraid to start over

Submitting Applications

IREX/Turkmenistan

Ashgabat 744000

48A Gorogly Street, 3rd floor,

Tel/Fax: (993 12) 33-10-34/38 ext.16, 20

e-mail: ugrad@irextm.org

**Contact: Natalya Semyonova,
Chemen Jumaeva**

No faxed or emailed applications accepted.

Application Deadline



Applications are due
**Friday, January 14,
2011 by 17:00**

Applications will be
accepted any time
before that – come
early, but don't be late!

Application Guidelines

- Only completed applications accepted
- No documents accepted separately
- Submit one original and one copy (for a total of **two** applications)
- Make one more copy for yourself
- Applications must be completed in English and typed or hand-written in black ink
- Typed applications are strongly recommended
- If hand-written, applications must be clear and readable
- Include your full name and citizenship in provided space on the upper right-hand corner of every page
- Complete all sections! If there is no answer, write N/A (not-applicable)

Don't Forget...

- Two completed recommendations (with an accurate English translation if necessary, which may be done by applicant).



Questions?

May be addressed to IREX staff at:

IREX/Turkmenistan

Ashgabat 744000

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